المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
18 November 1991

Libya again an American target

The Islamic Council views with grave concern the American and British accusations alleging involvement of the so called 'Libyan elements'in the tragic Lockerbie air disaster of December 1988. Such allegations have been made time and again,each time implicating one or other Muslim country, ranging from Iran to Syria and the PLO, and now Libya. Scant regard has been paid to the fact that the tragedy occurred at a time when the United States after years of sustained Palestinian efforts had just opened a dialogue with the PLO which was strongly resisted by Israel, and Israel alone stood to gain from any termination of the dialogue by playing on the perennial inclination in the West to blindly suspect Palestinians or their sympathisers of any act of terrorism.

The threats of punitive actions accompanied by the accusations now levelled against Libya make the allegations all the more sinister. It is not only unreasonable to demand extradition of accused 'elements' from Libya when no extradition treaties exist between Libya and the United States or the United Kingdom, but is also unprecedented for accusers to demand that they would themselves try the suspected 'elements'.

Libya's reaction in face of this grave provocation has remained sober and mature. They have offered that any shred of evidence claimed by the accusers may be brought before an impartial and neutral judiciary like the International Court of Justice or the United Nations. Those who have only recently been raising sky high 'the respect for the opinions of mankind as represented by the United Nations' can hardly justify any attempt to bypass the world body or international adjudication in this grave accusation which remains at best without any proof beyond doubt.

It is pertinent to recall that unsubstantiated allegations against Libya have been levelled in the past, particularly by the US and the UK, and even led to American bombing raids of Libya in 1986, resulting in wanton destruction of civilian property and lives. In this case it was found later that Libya had had no involvement in the night club bombing in Berlin, the US's given reason for the bombing raids.

The Islamic Council appeals to the good sense of justice and fair play on the part of all concerned to desist from any precipitate action without due process of impartial and international adjudication.

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH